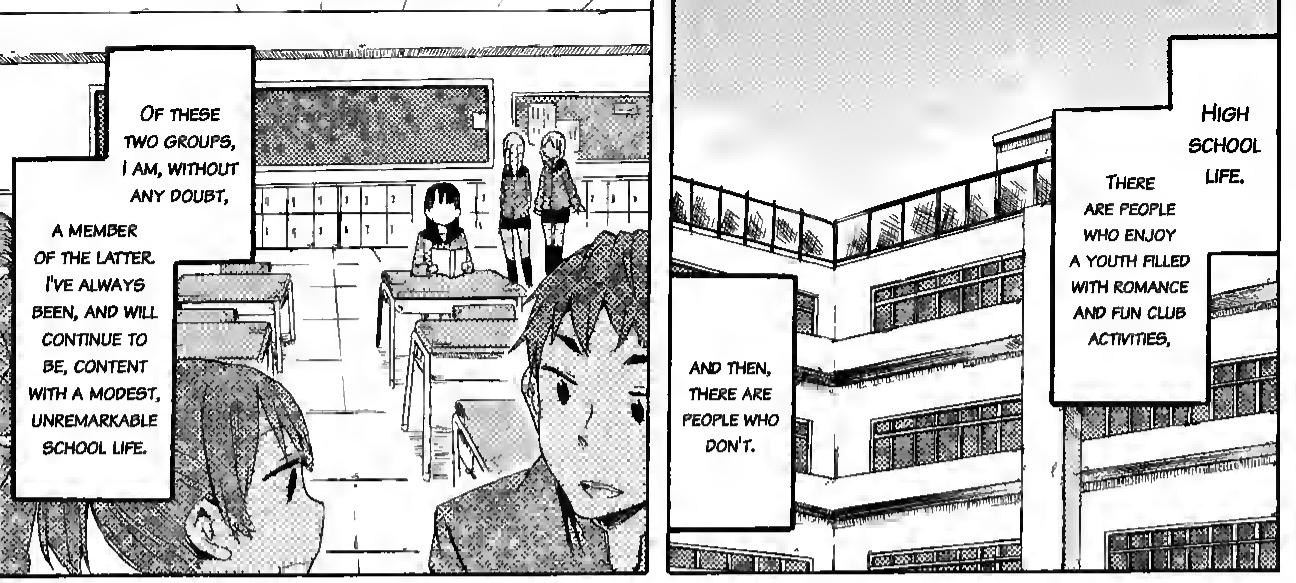
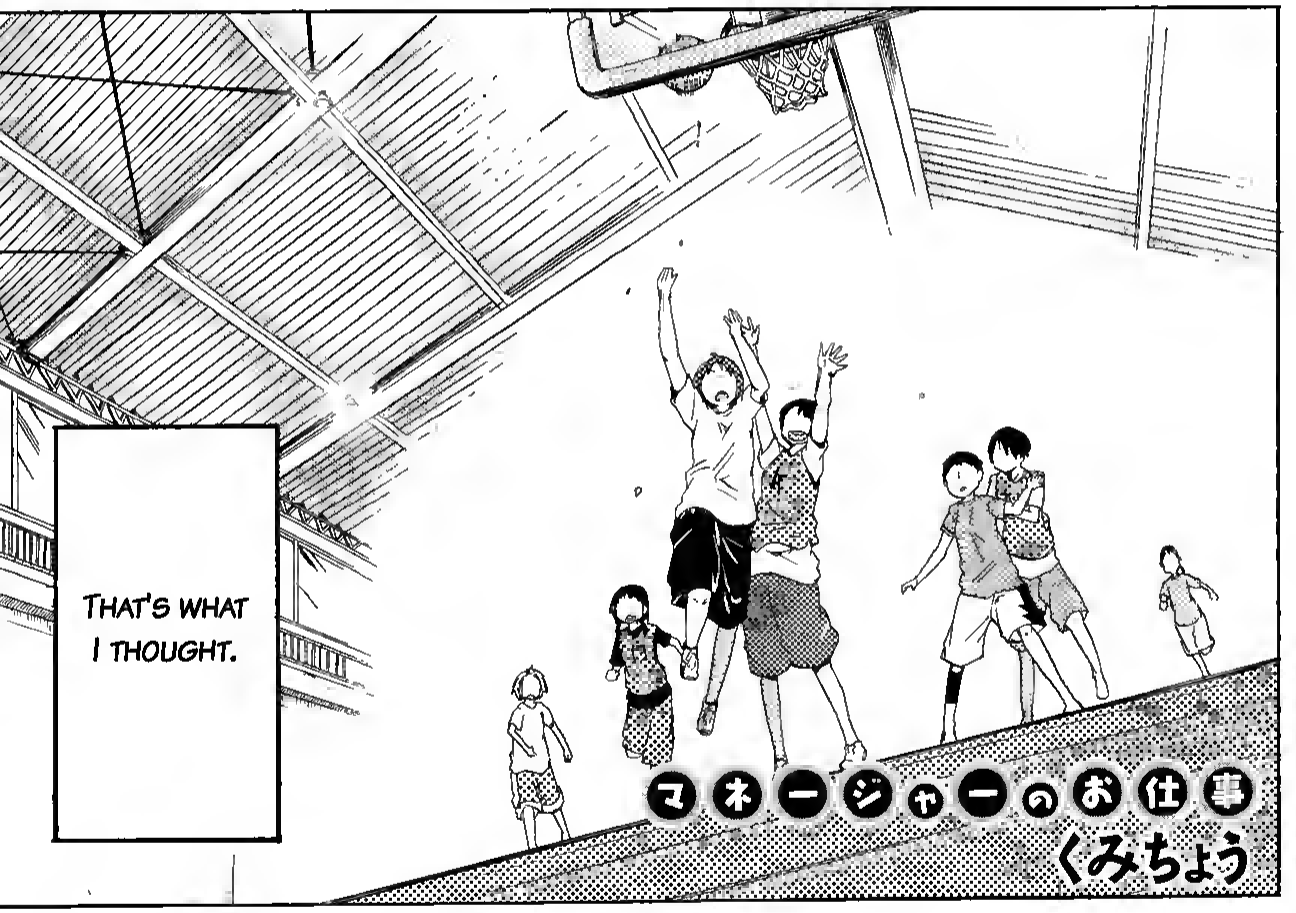
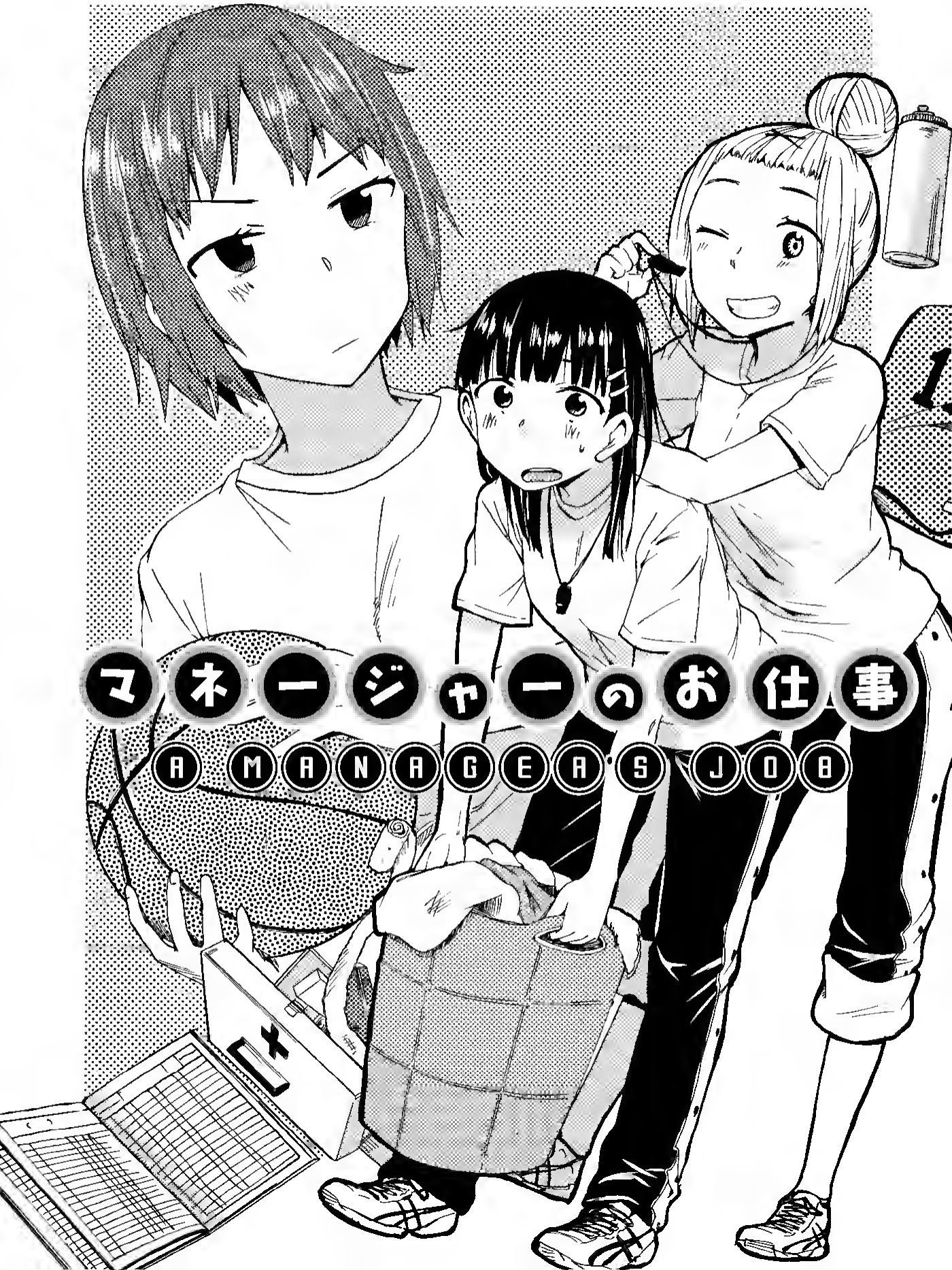

Of these two groups, I am, without any doubt,
a member of the latter. I've always been, and will continue to be, content with a modest, unremarkable school life.
And then, there are people who don't.
There are people who enjoy a youth filled with romance and fun club activities,
High school life.


That's what I thought.
マネージャーのお仕事
くみちょう

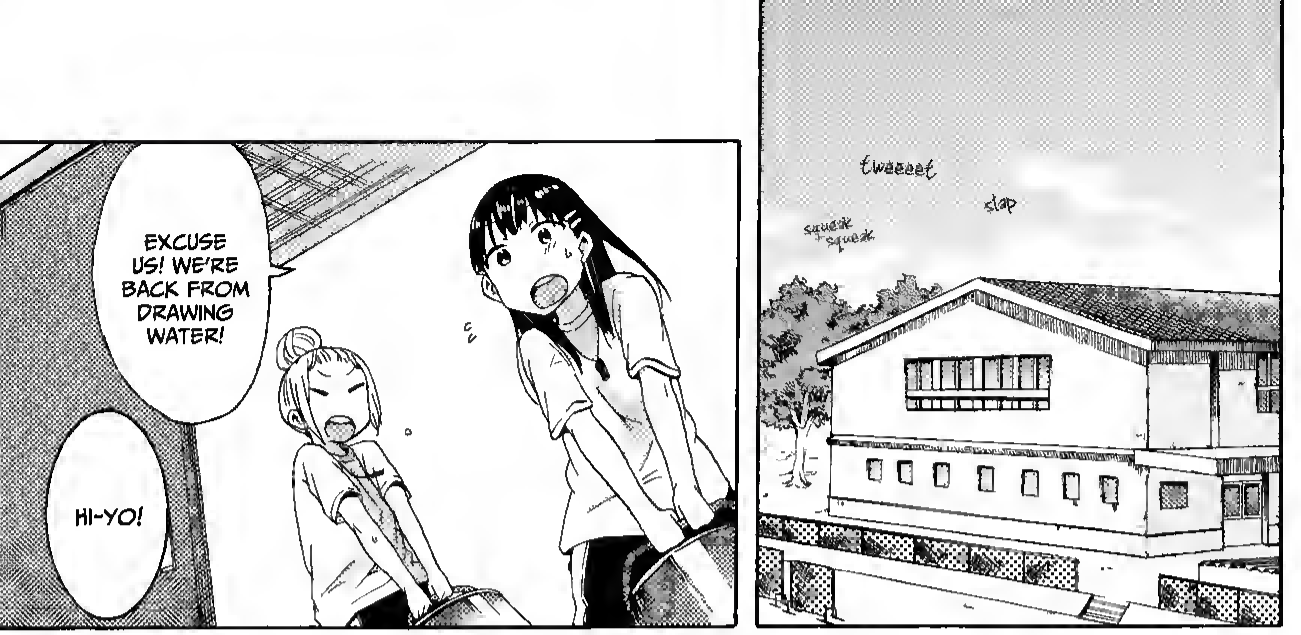
Up until that day.

くみちょう kumichou presents

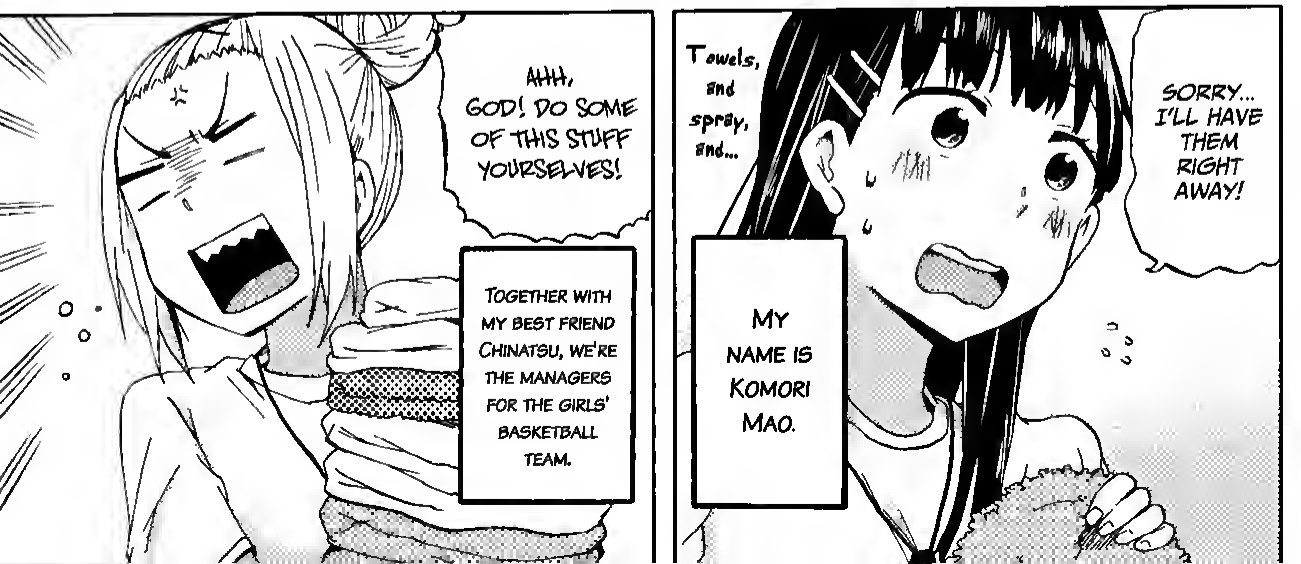


マネージャーのお仕事

A MANAGEAS JOB


EXCUSE US! WE'RE BACK FROM DRAWING WATER!
HI-YO!
tweeeet
slap
squeak squeak

I NEED TO GET TAPED UP!
WHERE'S THE NEW BOTTLE OF COLD SPRAY?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHERE ARE THE TOWELS!?
MANAGER, WATER!!
YIKES!


AHH, GOD! DO SOME OF THIS STUFF YOURSELVES!
TOGETHER WITH MY BEST FRIEND CHINATSU, WE'RE THE MANAGERS FOR THE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM.
Towels, and spray, and...
MY NAME IS KOMORI MAO.
SORRY... I'LL HAVE THEM RIGHT AWAY!

!
HEY, YOU SCHLEPS!
DUN
W-WE'RE VERY SORRY.
IT'S TAGAWA! THE NAGGING SISTER-IN-LAW!
BY THE WAY, YOU SCREWED UP KEEPING SCORE!
SO FREAKING SLOW, EVERY SINGLE TIME...!
HOW LONG CAN IT TAKE TO DO SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS FETCHING WATER?
Y-YES.
WE'RE GOING TO PLAY ONE MORE GAME, SO USE THAT WHISTLE PROPERLY THIS TIME!
I'M VERY SORRY.
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CALL FOULS RIGHT, IT MESSES UP OUR PRACTICE!
AND WHAT WAS WITH YOUR REFFING IN THE LAST GAME? IT SUCKED!
NO, IT'S MY FAULT FOR BEING INCOMPE-TENT.
I'M SORRY ABOUT HER. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY SHE KNOWS HOW TO SPEAK.
BUT THIS IS A MANAGER'S JOB, RIGHT!?
COME ON, TAGAWA, YOU'RE BEING TOO HARD ON THEM.

I'M
OUT OF WATER.
PLONK
...YES.
YO.
GLARE
YES!
THIS ISN'T WHAT I THOUGHT BEING A MANAGER'D BE LIKE AT ALL!!!
FW
MP
GEEZ... QUIET DOWN, CHINATSU!
...AND LIKE, THIS IS WAY TOO MUCH WORK!
SERIOUSLY, LIKE, WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH HER!?
...AND LIKE, AND LIKE...

CHINATSU, YOU'RE SHOUTING!
WHY DON'T THEY TREAT US LIKE THAT!?
Dunno...
What's going on over there?
BUT A MANAGER'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEONE EVERYBODY CURRIES FAVOR WITH!
LOOK AT THE BASE-BALL TEAM'S MANAGER! HOW THE PLAYERS ARE ALWAYS FLIRTING WITH HER!

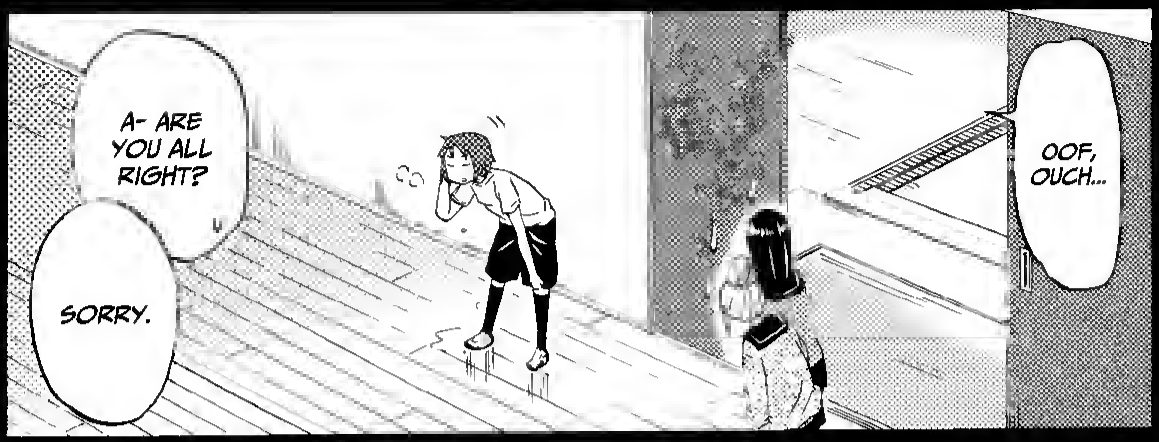
WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE SAME THING.
SIGH...

slump
THERE, THERE...
AUGG GGHHH! MAOOO OOO!
WHY DID IT HAVE TO TURN OUT LIKE THIIIISSS!?

I WANT TO BE POPULAR!
WHAT'S THIS...? ALL OF A SUDDEN.
...

ONE MONTH PRIOR
Hey, Mao! Let's be managers!

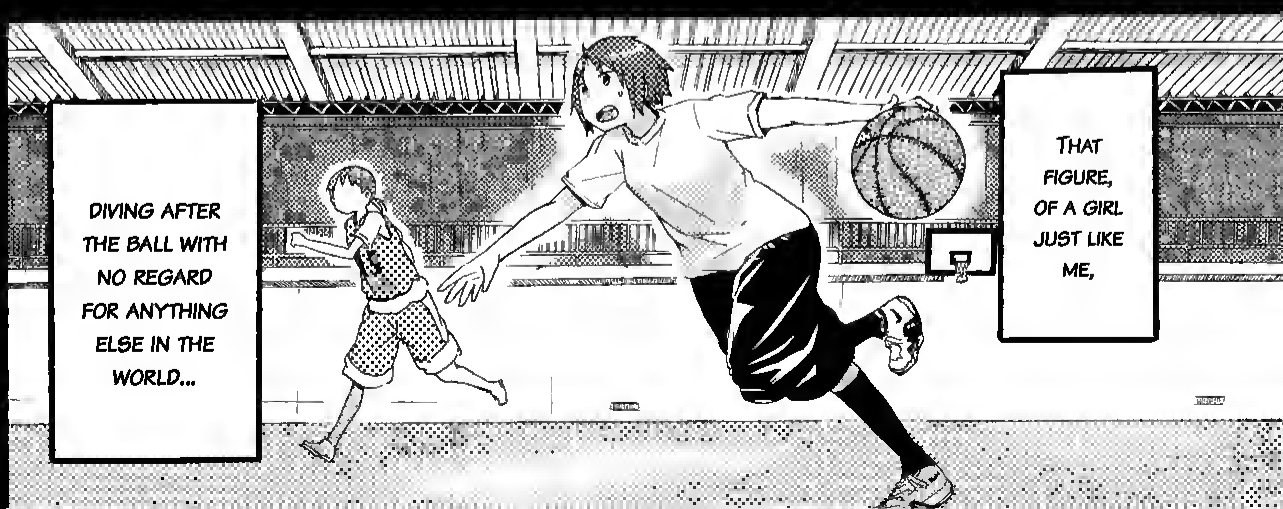
HOLD ON!
WE'LL JUST GO THERE TO OBSERVE!
WORN DOWN BY HER PERSISTENT PESTERING, I RELUCTANTLY FOLLOWED ALONG TO THE GYM.
SLI-
DE
PARDON US!
I'LL PASS. I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT SPORTS.
YES, THERE IT IS! MAO'S SPECIALTY, THE "I'LL PASS"!
SO YOU'RE OK WITH BEING DEAD BORING FOR YET ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR!?
ALL RIGHT, I'VE JUST DECIDED. I'M DEFINITELY NOT DOING IT.
NO WAY!?
FWSH
ticked off
FWMPH
!?
EYEAR RGHH!?
SMACK


A- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SORRY.
OOF, OUCH...

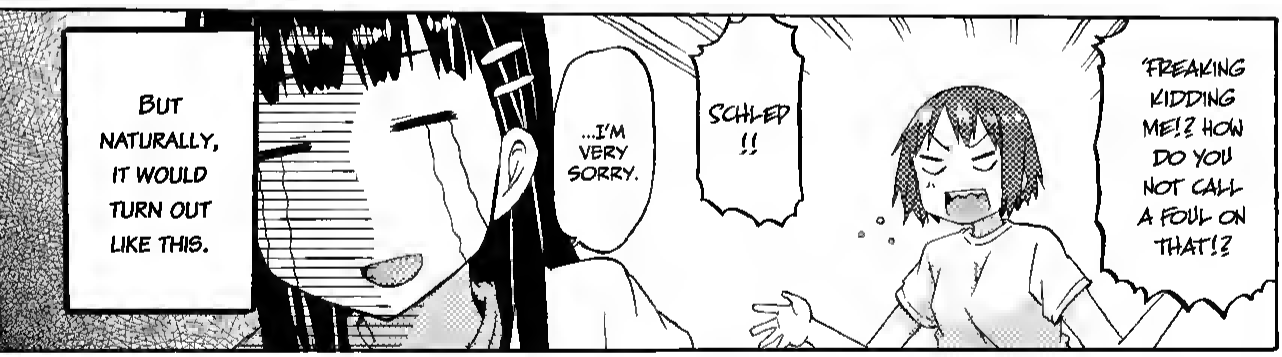
EHM, NO, THAT'S OUR LINE..
W- WE'RE FINE.

huff
huff
YOU WEREN'T HURT AT ALL?

FRESHMAN! GET THE MOP!
DAMN IT...
YOU WERE WAY, WAY OUT OF BOUNDS...
DID IT GO OUT?

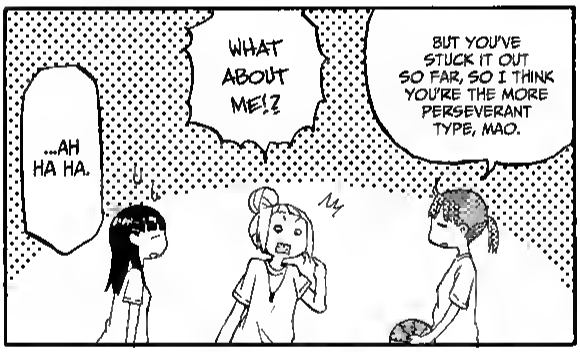

DIVING AFTER THE BALL WITH NO REGARD FOR ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD...
THAT FIGURE, OF A GIRL JUST LIKE ME,

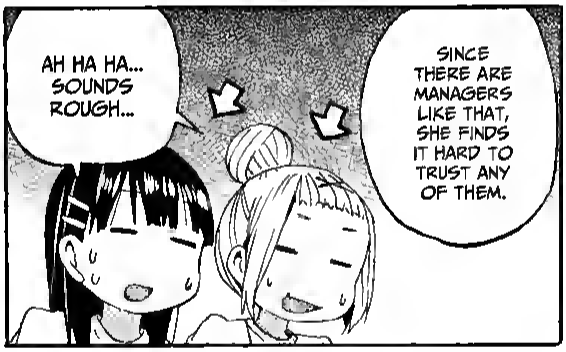
UN-
WITTINGLY,
I MIGHT WANT...
TO TRY BEING A MANAGER AFTER ALL...
...I FOUND MYSELF THINKING THOSE WORDS.
...WAS A LITTLE ASTONISHING TO ME, WHO HAD SPENT MY LIFE SO MEEKLY AND TAMELY.

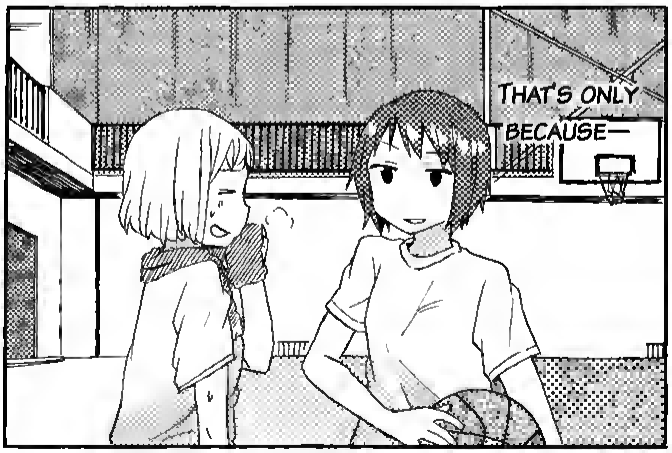

BUT NATURALLY, IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS.
...I'M VERY SORRY.
SCHLEP !!
'FREAKING KIDDING ME!? HOW DO YOU NOT CALL A FOUL ON THAT!?

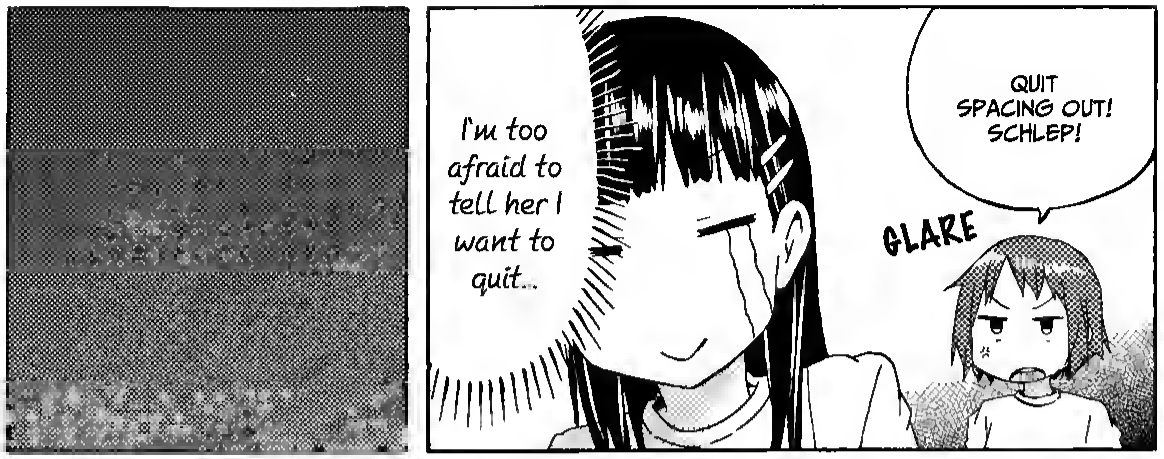
HANG IN THERE...
Work like this is what I'm made for.
Should've known I couldn't hack it in a sports club

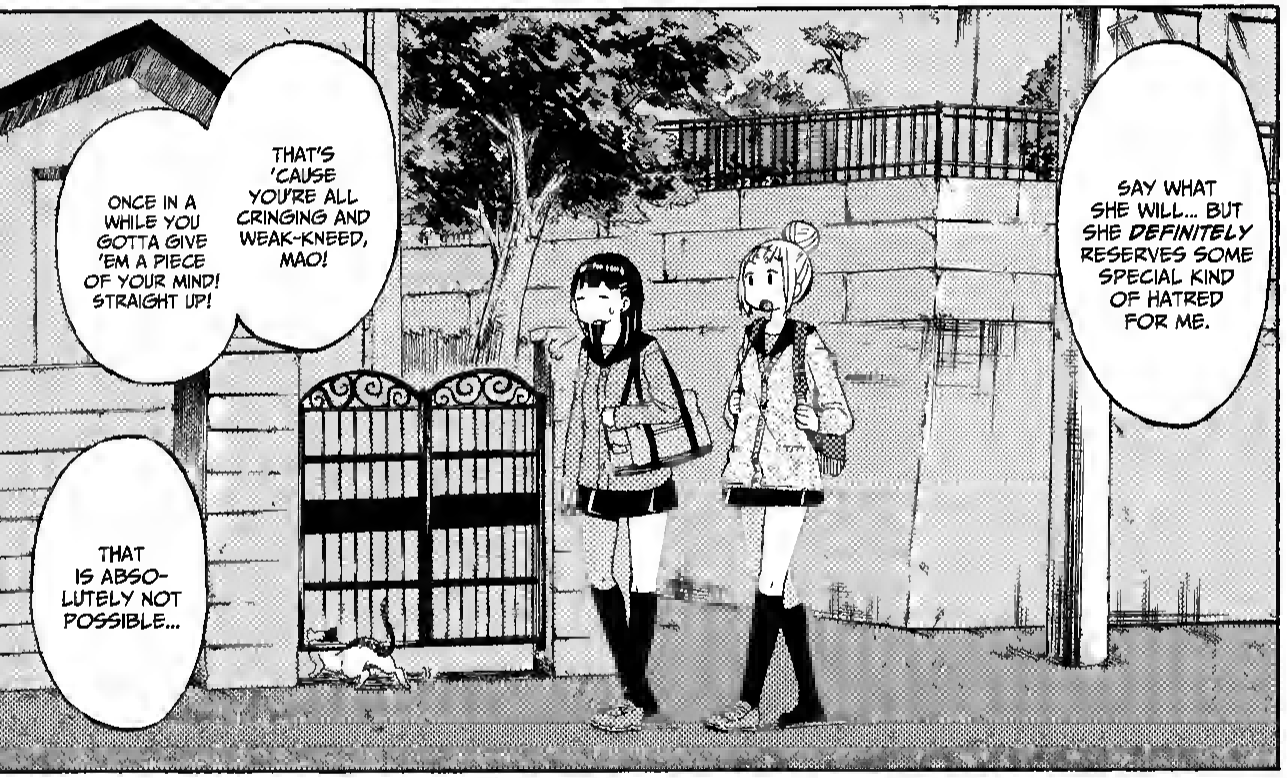
SOME OF THEM SIGN UP TO BE MANAGERS, BUT MOST GET TIRED OF IT AND QUIT AFTER ABOUT A WEEK.
ESPECIALLY SO WITH TAGAWA, SINCE SHE'S THE STAR OF THE TEAM.
OUR BOYS' AND GIRLS' TEAMS ARE BOTH PRETTY GOOD, SO YOU GET A LOT OF BANDWAGON-RIDERS AND POSEURS CROWDING AROUND.
THOUGH... THIS MAY HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE. SINCE TAGAWA HATES MANAGERS.
SHE DOES?


...AH HA HA.
WHAT ABOUT ME!?
BUT YOU'VE STUCK IT OUT SO FAR, SO I THINK YOU'RE THE MORE PERSEVERANT TYPE, MAO.


AH HA HA... SOUNDS ROUGH...
SINCE THERE ARE MANAGERS LIKE THAT, SHE FINDS IT HARD TO TRUST ANY OF THEM.

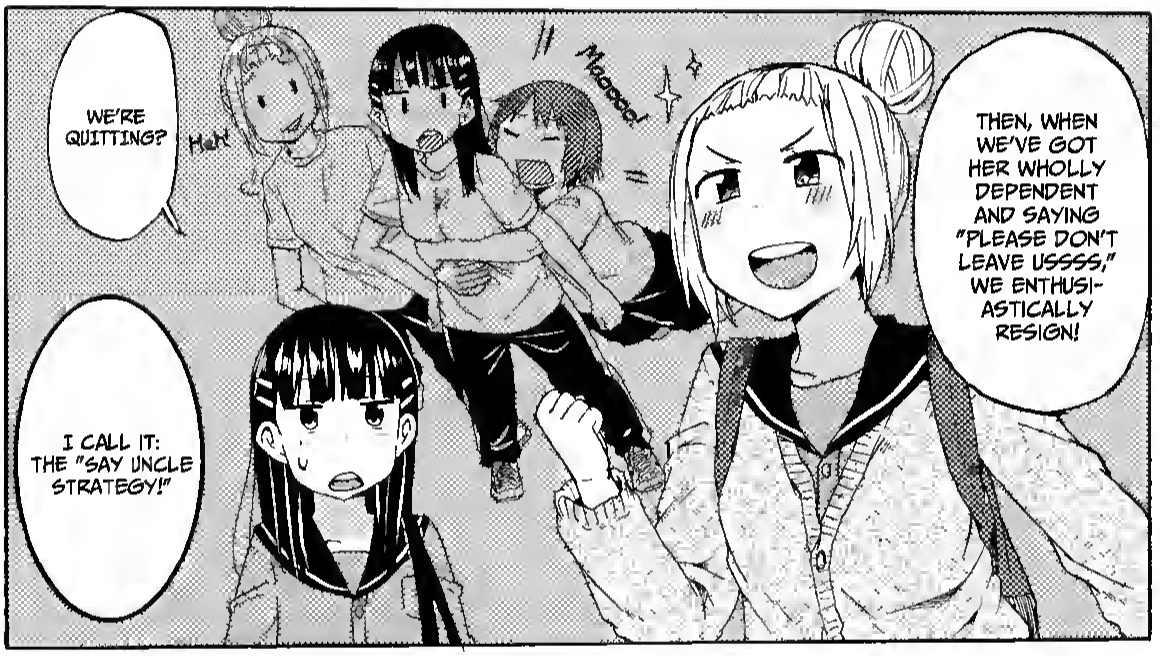

THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE—

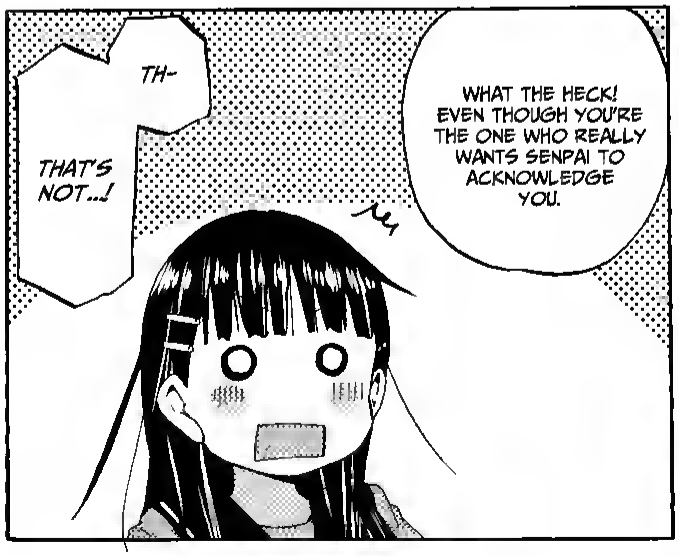

I'm too afraid to tell her I want to quit...
QUIT SPACING OUT! SCHLEP!
GLARE


ONCE IN A WHILE YOU GOTTA GIVE 'EM A PIECE OF YOUR MIND! STRAIGHT UP!
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE ALL CRINGING AND WEAK-KNEED, MAO!
SAY WHAT SHE WILL... BUT SHE *DEFINITELY* RESERVES SOME SPECIAL KIND OF HATRED FOR ME.
THAT IS ABSO-LUTELY NOT POSSIBLE...

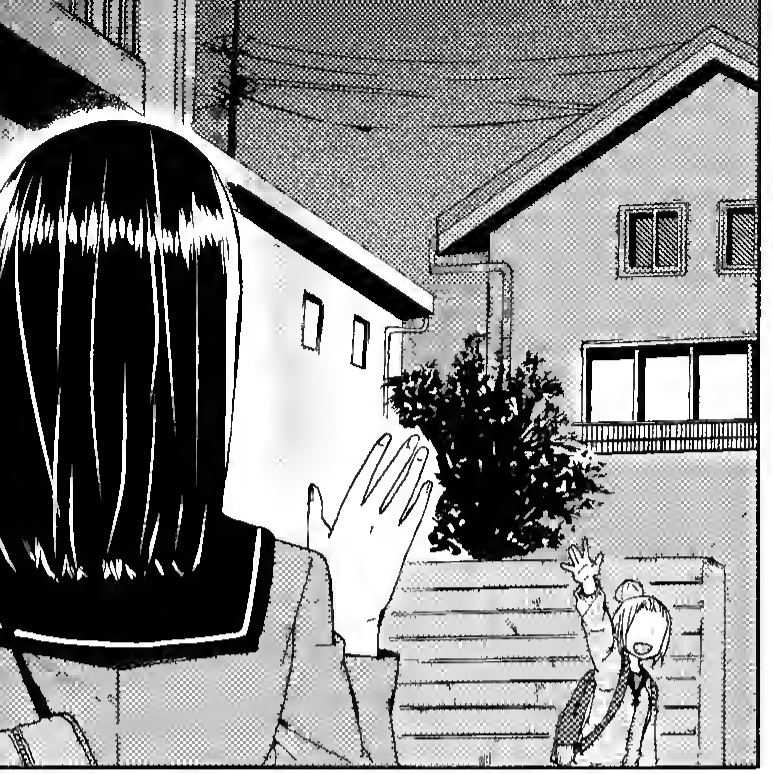
Sigh
I THOUGHT MANAGER WOULD BE A COOLER SORT OF JOB, BUT...
ALL WE DO IS GET YELLED AT. I'M REALLY NOT CUT OUT FOR IT...

I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT TERM USED IN A WHILE...
UNTIL SENPAI HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO SAY "UNCLE"!
THEN, LET'S GO ALL OUT AND TURN OURSELVES INTO ULTRA-HYPER-COMPETENT MANAGERS!

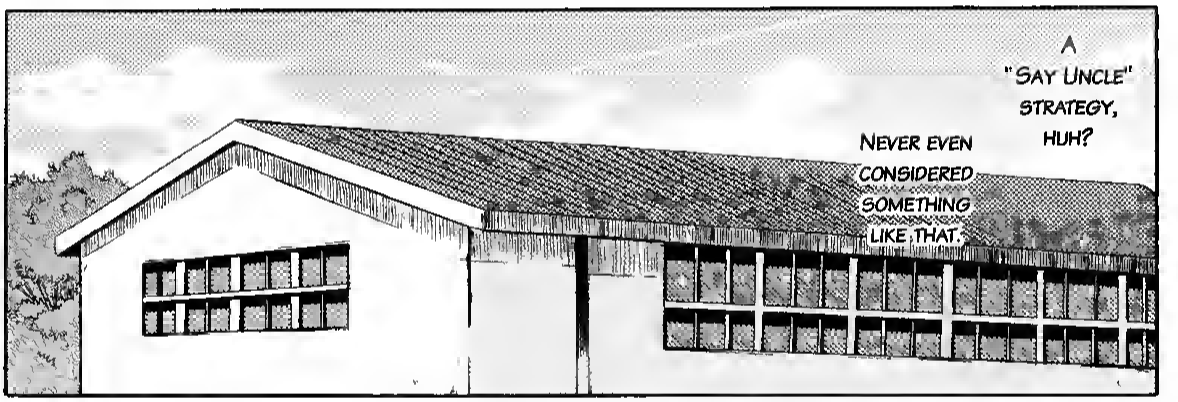

WE'RE QUITTING?
Hah!
Mgggg!
THEN, WHEN WE'VE GOT HER WHOLLY DEPENDENT AND SAYING "PLEASE DON'T LEAVE USSSS," WE ENTHUSI-ASTICALLY RESIGN!
I CALL IT: THE "SAY UNCLE STRATEGY!"


TH-
THAT'S NOT...!
WHAT THE HECK! EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE ONE WHO REALLY WANTS SENPAI TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU.

YOU JUST SAID "STUPID"!
AS A PLAN, IT'S A LOT LIKE YOU: STUPIDLY OPTIMISTIC.



YES, ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT IT.
THIS STRATEGY IS ALL FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU KNOW!
ANYWAY, THAT'S ENOUGH PUSSY-FOOTING AROUND! WE'RE TAKING A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THIS!

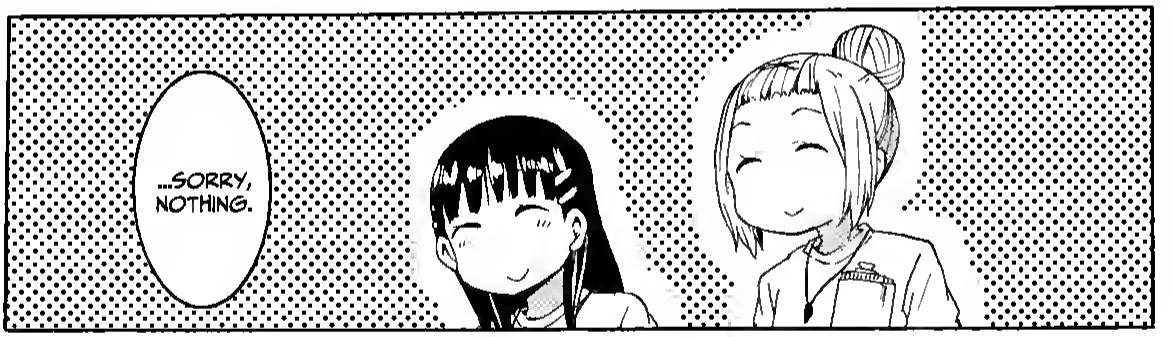

A "SAY UNCLE" STRATEGY, HUH?
NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

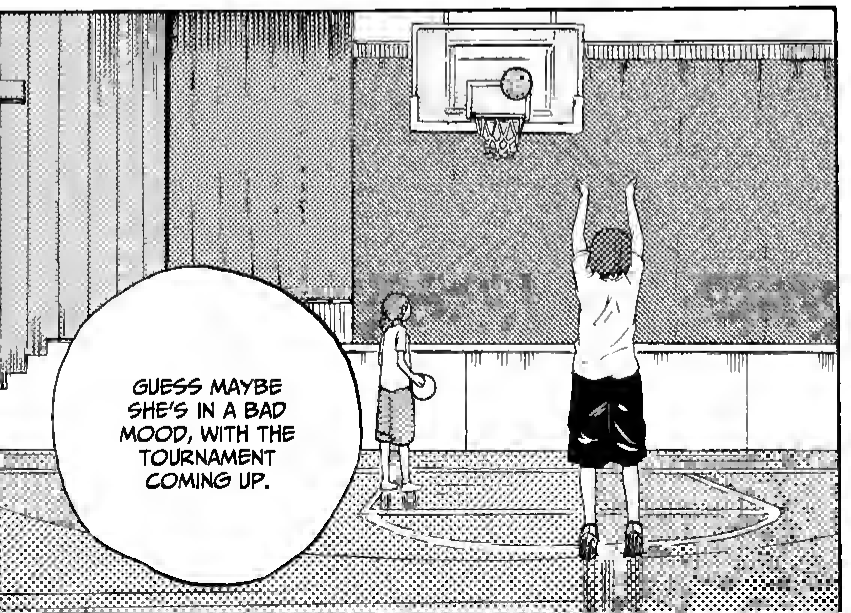
GEEZ! YOU REALLY CAN'T DO A THING ON YOUR OWN...
MAO-MAO...
SLUMPPP
...

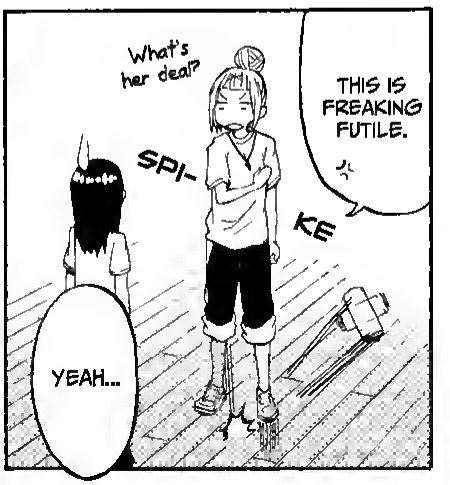
To make Tagawa-senpai totally dependent on me...

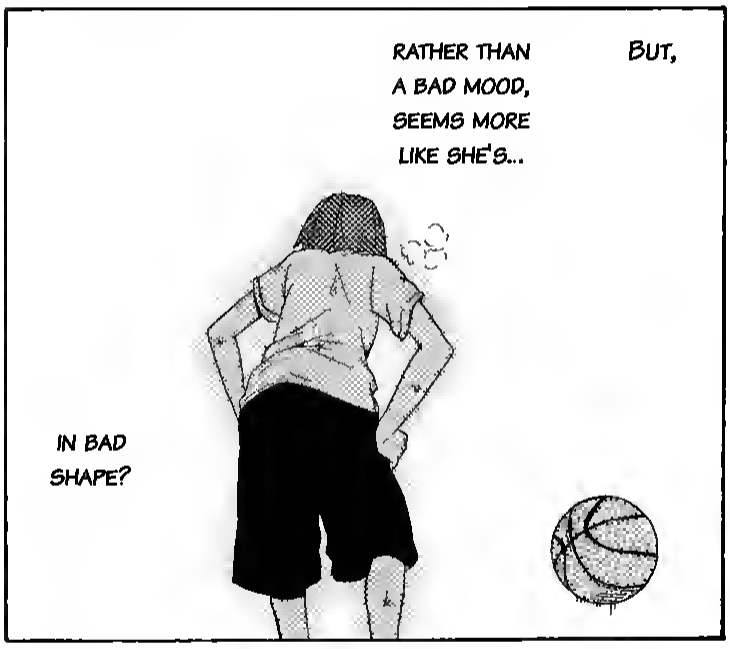
GRIT
ALL RIGHT!
DON'T SPACE OUT! SCHLEP!!
That might not be so ba—
Mm
WH
...
AP
...
SENPAI, SOME SPORTS DRINK?
DON'T WANT IT NOW.
THIS ONE TIME,
YOUR TOWEL—
FWP
I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE DOING IT THE WRONG WAY.
WE PUT THE SCORE-BOOK IN ORDER—
GIVING IT OUR ALL!?
WE AIN'T USING THE BIBS TODAY.
WE WASHED THE BIBS WITH HIGH-QUALITY FABRIC SOFTENER!
SHALL WE TRY

SENPAI—
...
GOD, WHAT IS *WITH* YOU PEOPLE TODAY?
WHAT? WHADDYA WANT!?


...SORRY, NOTHING.


GUESS MAYBE SHE'S IN A BAD MOOD, WITH THE TOURNAMENT COMING UP.


What's her deal?
THIS IS FREAKING FUTILE.
SPI-
KE
YEAH...

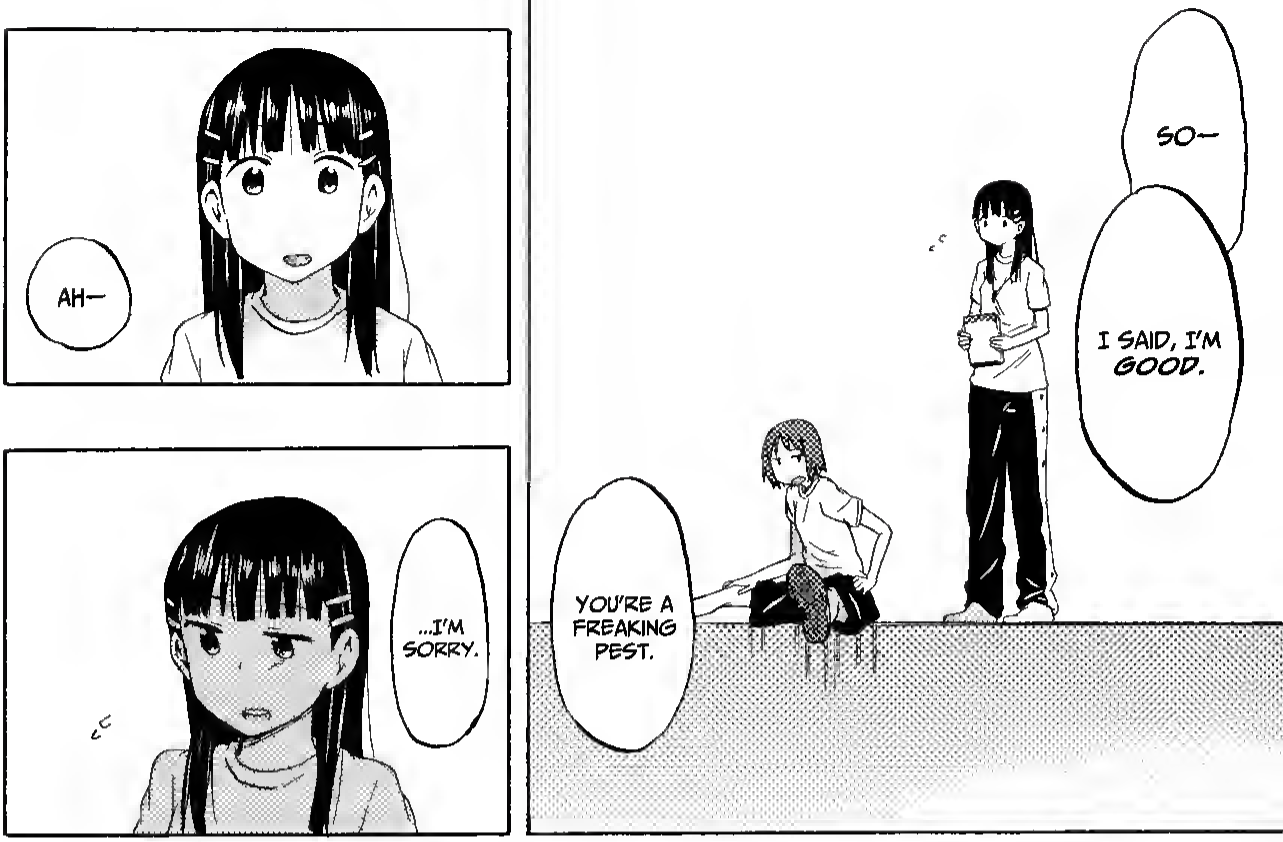

BUT,
RATHER THAN A BAD MOOD, SEEMS MORE LIKE SHE'S...
IN BAD SHAPE?

...MAYBE.

MANAGER, CAN I GET A MASSAGE?
SURE THING.

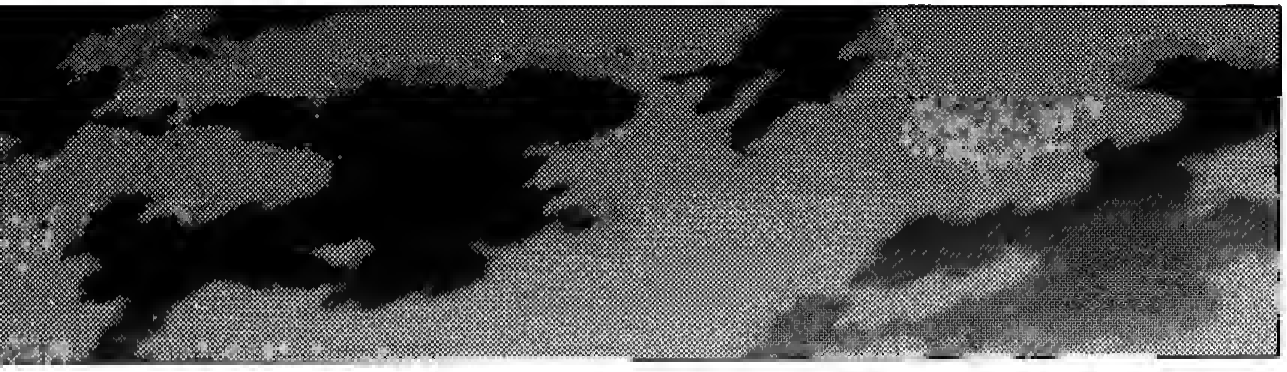
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL CALL THAT A WRAP FOR TODAY.
EVERYBODY SPLIT UP AND START GETTING COOLED DOWN.

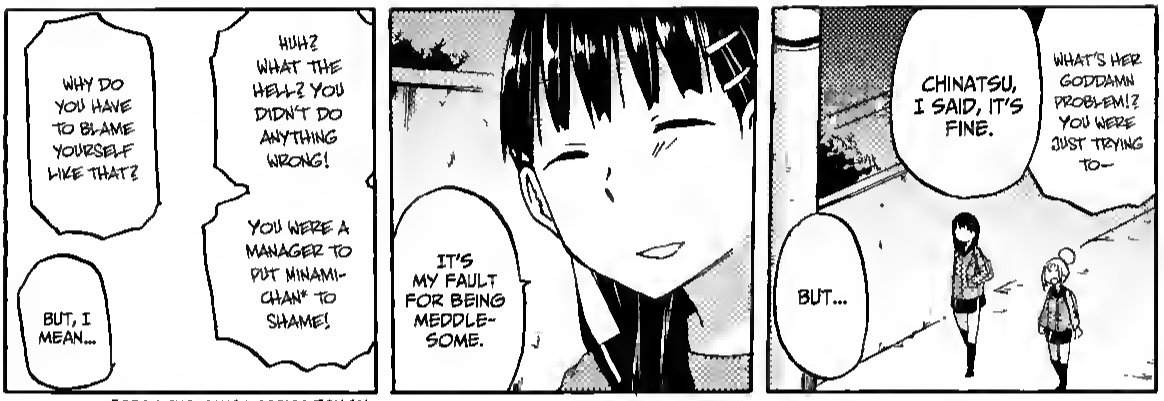
EXCUSE ME,
SENPAI.
WOULD YOU LIKE A MASSAGE?
I'M GOOD.
W-WELL, BUT YOU KNOW, I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD WITH MASSAGES...
I CAN NEVER KEEP UP REFEREEING AND ALWAYS MAKE A MESS OF IT, BUT I TOOK MY TIME AND READ ALL UP ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING.
Sportsman's Massage and Taping
PLEASE, LEAVE IT TO ME.
AND IT LOOKED LIKE
YOUR LEG WAS CAUSING YOU SOME TROUBLE, RIGHT, SENPAI?
!


AH—
...I'M SORRY.
SO—
I SAID, I'M GOOD.
YOU'RE A FREAKING PEST.

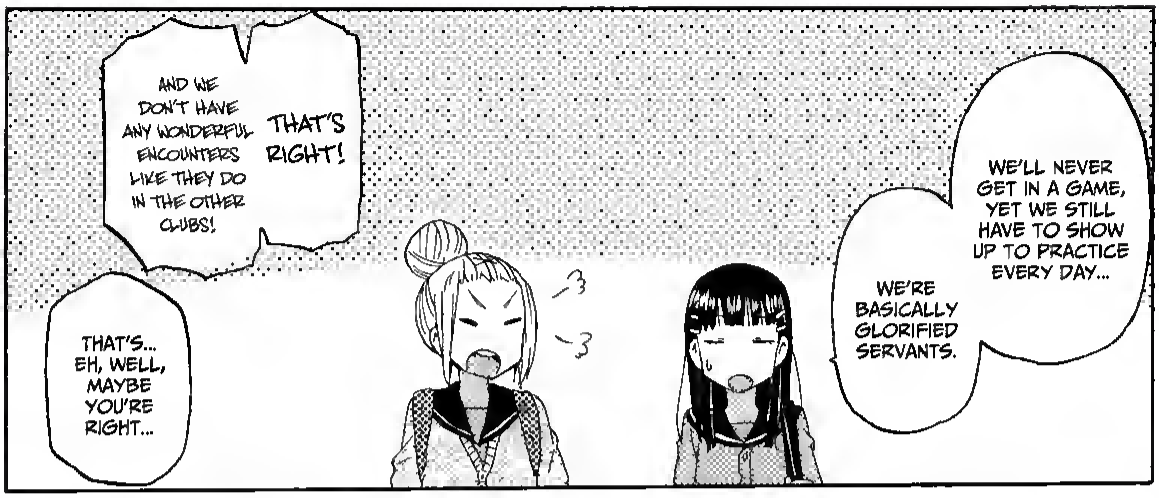
AH— HEY!
I'M LEAVING.
HOLD UP, TAGAWA! THAT'S OUT OF LINE...

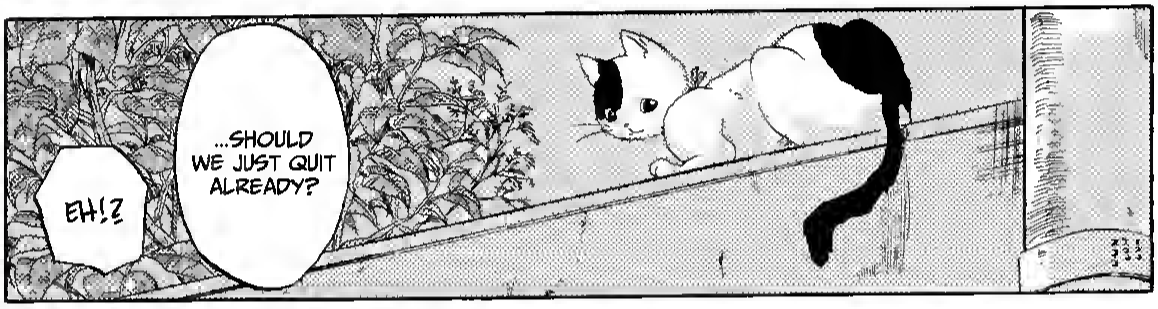
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.
NO...
JEESH.
SORRY ABOUT HER.



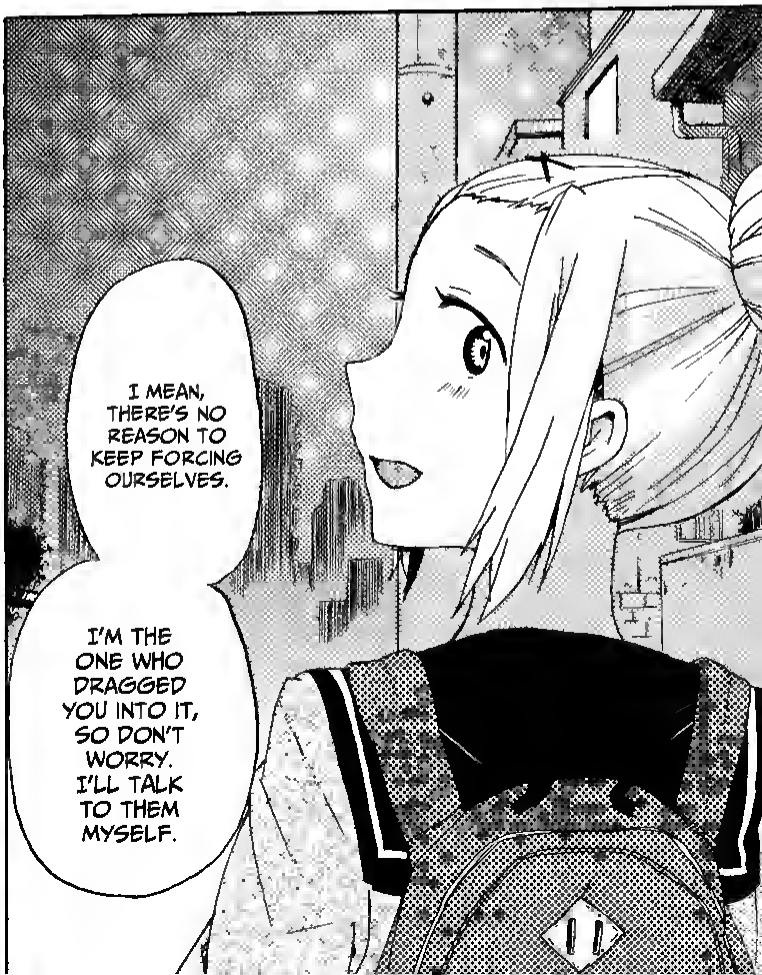

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BLAME YOURSELF LIKE THAT?
BUT, I MEAN...
HUH? WHAT THE HELL? YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
YOU WERE A MANAGER TO PUT MINAMI-CHAN* TO SHAME!
IT'S MY FAULT FOR BEING MEDDLE-SOME.
CHINATSU, I SAID, IT'S FINE.
BUT...
WHAT'S HER GODDAMN PROBLEM!? YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO—

*FROM THE MANGA SERIES *TOUCH*.

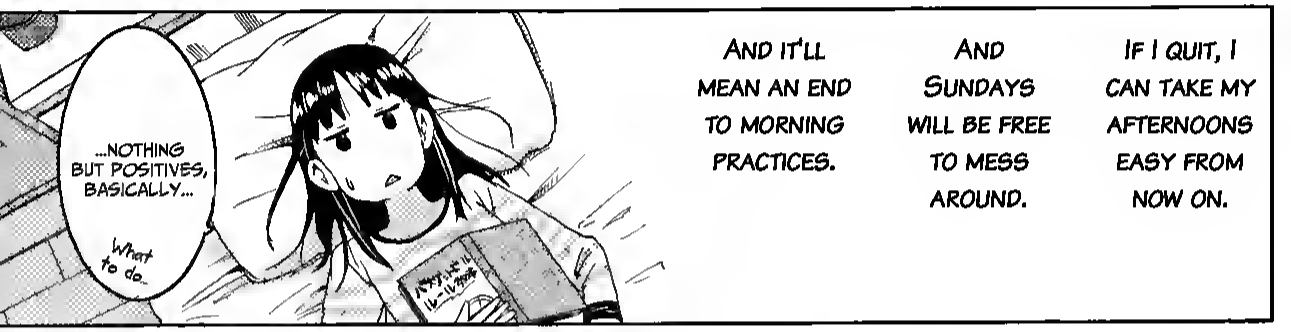

WE'LL NEVER GET IN A GAME, YET WE STILL HAVE TO SHOW UP TO PRACTICE EVERY DAY...
WE'RE BASICALLY GLORIFIED SERVANTS.
THAT'S RIGHT!
AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY WONDERFUL ENCOUNTERS LIKE THEY DO IN THE OTHER CLUBS!
THAT'S... EH, WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...


...SHOULD WE JUST QUIT ALREADY?
EH!?

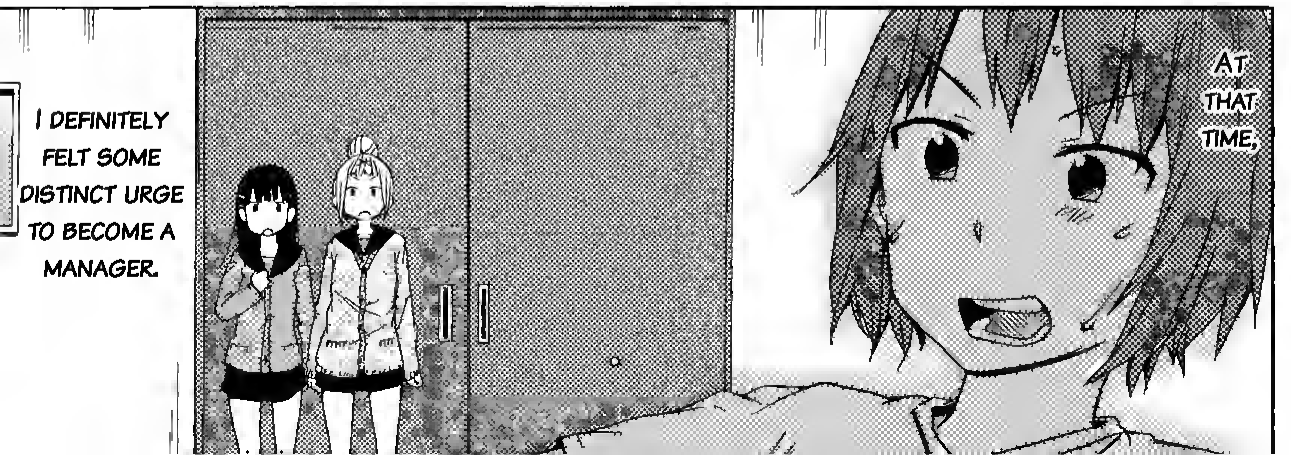
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
!

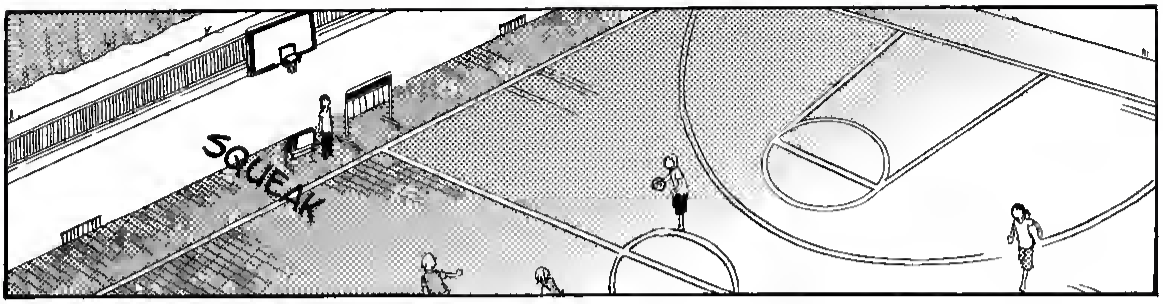

I MEAN, THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP FORCING OURSELVES.
I'M THE ONE WHO DRAGGED YOU INTO IT, SO DON'T WORRY. I'LL TALK TO THEM MYSELF.

WHAT DO I WANT TO DO, INDEED?

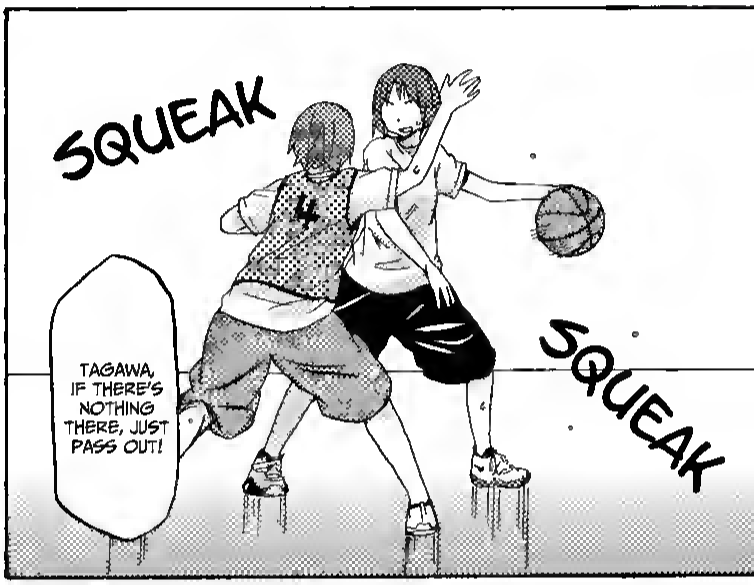

...NOTHING BUT POSITIVES, BASICALLY...
What to do...
AND IT'LL MEAN AN END TO MORNING PRACTICES.
AND SUNDAYS WILL BE FREE TO MESS AROUND.
IF I QUIT, I CAN TAKE MY AFTERNOONS EASY FROM NOW ON.

Ooghh.
Yet.
why is it that the thought depresses me somehow?

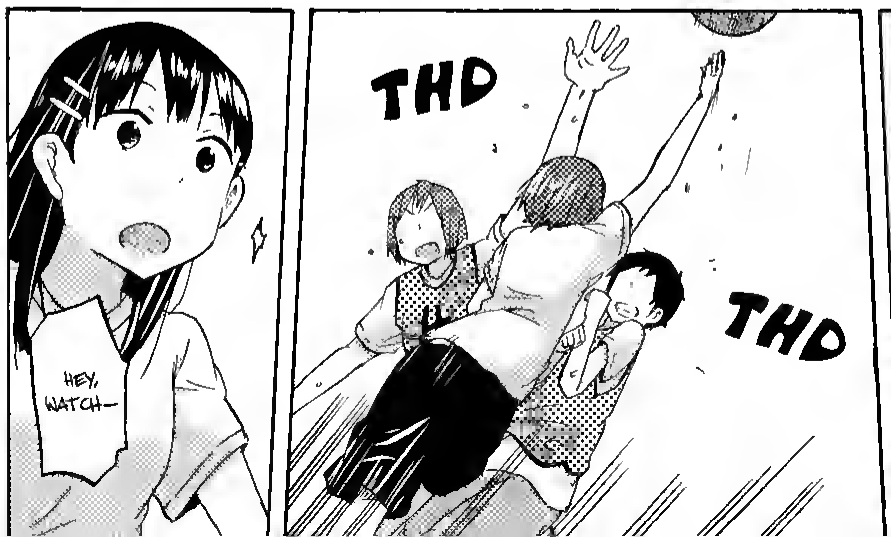

I DEFINITELY FELT SOME DISTINCT URGE TO BECOME A MANAGER.
AT THAT TIME,

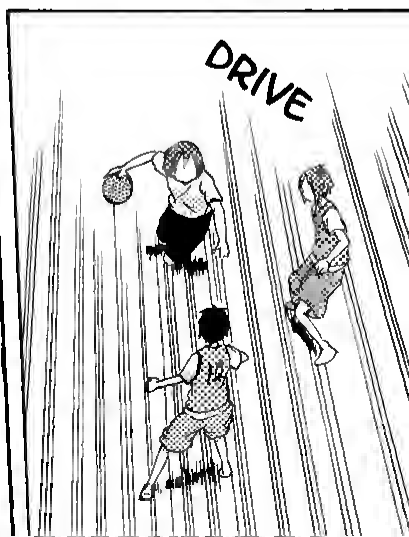

SQUEAK

If I got myself together a bit more,
would she acknowledge me then?


SQUEAK
SQUEAK
TAGAWA, IF THERE'S NOTHING THERE, JUST PASS OUT!

DAMN IT!
SENPAI...


HEY, WATCH—
THD
THD


DRIVE

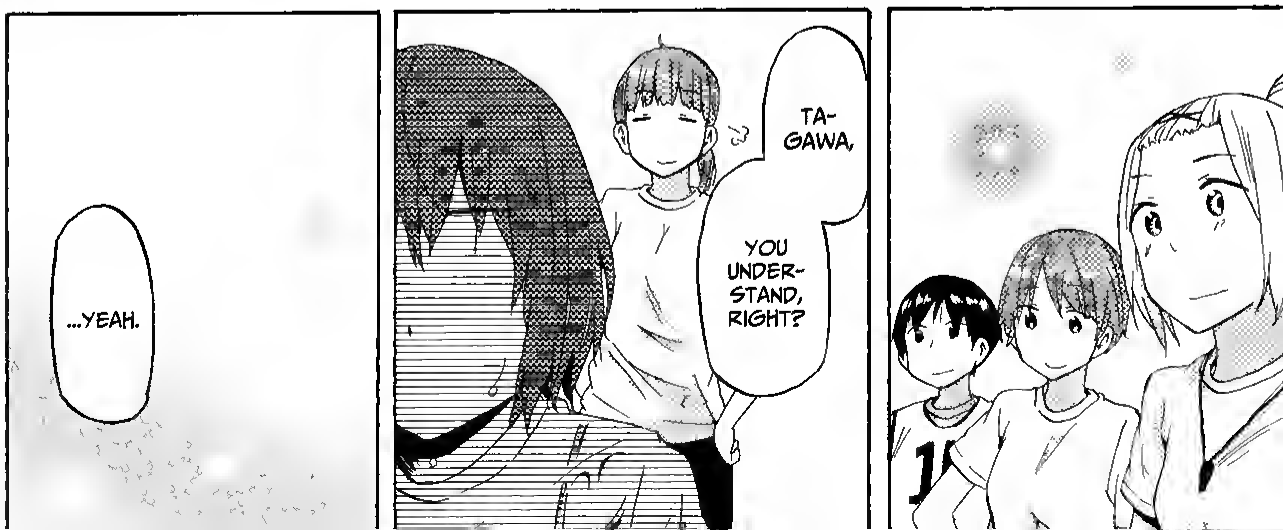
THUD
RGG HHH...
TA-GAWA!
BRING THE COLD SPRAY, QUICK!
-OUT!
SENPAI, LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT IT.
IT'S NOTHING. I JUST TWISTED MY ANKLE A LITTLE.
BUT-
I'VE BROUGHT ICE WATER!
CAN YOU STAND?
I'M FINE.
HOLD-
THAT'S GOING...
...!
JUST BUG OFF ALREADY!
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, OK!?

SPLOOSH
...A BIT TOO FAR—

...
WH—
MAO!?

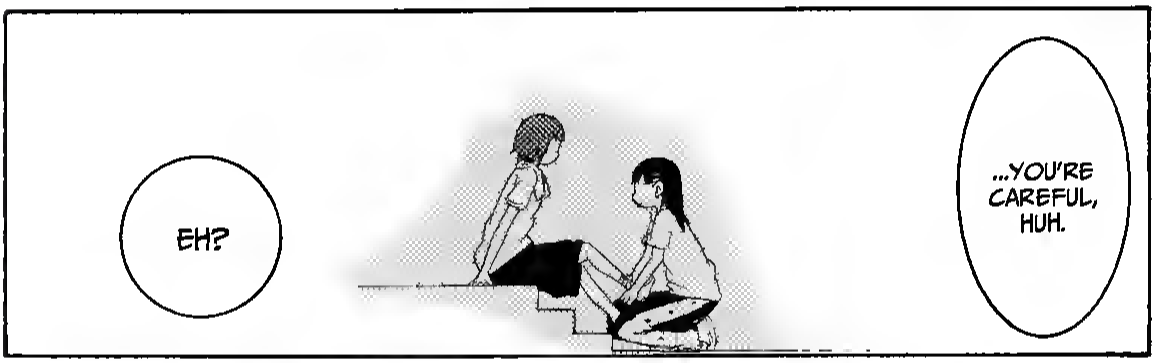
I-I-I-I'M EXTREMELY SORRY!
FWWWSH
INSTANTANEOUS APOLOGY !!!
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ...
BUT, I MEAN...
TO SAY IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
WELL, MAYBE THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
I KNOW WE STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING ABOUT BASKETBALL,
AND WE CAN'T DO OUR JOBS PROPERLY AT ALL...
I DON'T REALLY GET THE POINT OF BEING A MANAGER,
AND GETTING YELLED AT ALL THE TIME MAKES ME WANT TO QUIT, BUT,
NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE YOUR MANAGERS!
SINCE THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THE FEELING I HAD AT THAT MOMENT...

I KNOW WE'RE NOT RELIABLE, BUT PLEASE, RELY ON US A LITTLE!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M LEAVING THINGS LIKE THIS AND RUNNING AWAY!


TA-GAWA, YOU UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?
...YEAH.

Yeep... she's mad, isn't she...
Why'd I do a thing like that...?
...
!
ACHOO!
P-P-P-PLEASE EXCUSE ME, I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING—
IT'S FINE.
SO HURRY UP AND FINISH.

SWP
Y-
YES.

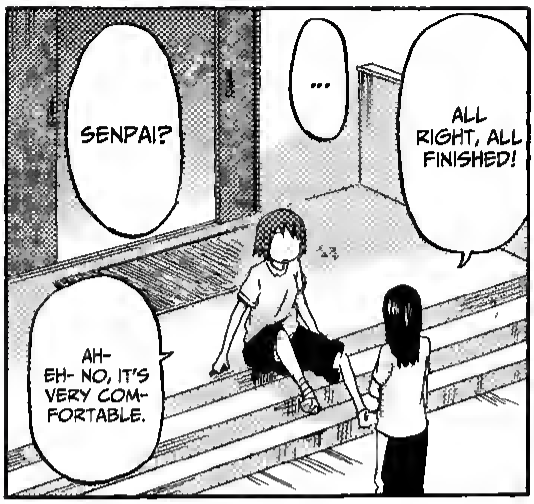

EH?
...YOU'RE CAREFUL, HUH.

...
YOU WERE SLOW, BECAUSE
YOU PUT SO MUCH CARE INTO EVERY SEPARATE JOB YOU DID.
THE TRUTH IS, I UNDERSTOOD ALL ALONG.
THE TOWELS, THE JERSEYS AND THINGS... THEY WERE ALWAYS FOLDED UP SO NEATLY.

BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN ONLY THINKING ABOUT MYSELF.
I'VE HAD TROUBLE GETTING READY FOR THE INTER-HIGH TOURNA-MENT,
AND ON TOP OF THAT, I HURT MY LEG... I'VE BEEN FEELING PRETTY MISERABLE.

I DIDN'T PAY ATTEN-TION TO THE THINGS AROUND ME,
AND I'VE BEEN IRRITATED ALL THE TIME.
...I'M SORRY.

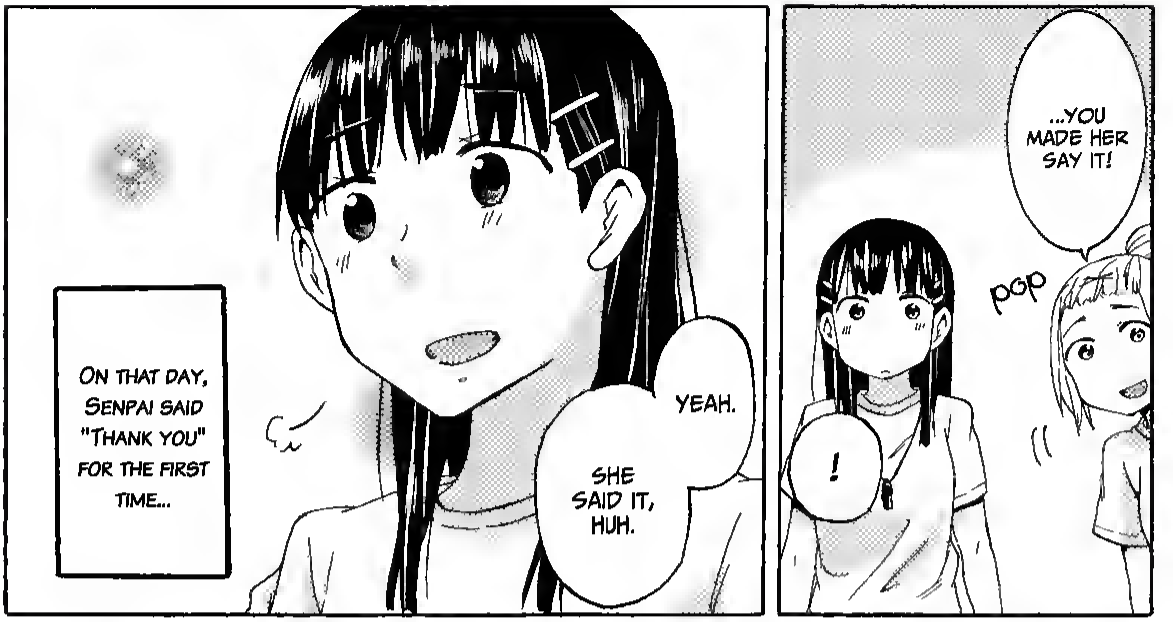
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET YOU RIGHT BACK TO FORM.
PROB-ABLY.
JUST "PROB-ABLY?"
WELL, I'VE NEVER PLAYED SPORTS BEFORE, SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
BUT I KNOW YOU'LL BE FINE, SENPAI.
AFTER ALL, NO ONE PRACTICES HARDER THAN YOU, RIGHT?
EVEN I CAN TELL THAT. AS A MANAGER, NOBODY HAS WATCHED YOU MORE THAN I HAVE.


SENPAI?
...
ALL RIGHT, ALL FINISHED!
AH- EH- NO, IT'S VERY COM-FORTABLE.

WH—

UM...
...THANK YOU.

...


ON THAT DAY, SENPAI SAID "THANK YOU" FOR THE FIRST TIME...
YEAH.
SHE SAID IT, HUH.
...YOU MADE HER SAY IT!
pop
!

...BUT I GOT THE FEELING THAT WHAT I HAD REALLY HEARD HER SAY WAS "UNCLE".
SO, ARE WE GIVING UP ON GIVING UP?
MM... FOR THE MOMENT, MAYBE WE CAN TRY STICKING IT OUT A LITTLE LONGER.
YOU'RE A CALCULATING SORT OF WOMAN, AREN'T YOU.
END

ARTIST: KUMICHOU

RAW PROVIDER: WEATHEREDPEACH

TRANSLATOR: GULF STANDARD

EDITOR: HORN

QUALITY CONTROLLERS: PROCYON, GULF STANDARD, PHYIS

HTTP://YURIPROJECT.NET